

Claims

We claim:

5        1. In a digital television system comprising a plurality of receivers coupled to a program source, a method for providing subscriber conferencing with program delivery comprising the steps of:

10        coupling a program source to a plurality of digital television (DTV) receivers;  
            delivering a program from the program source to the DTV receivers coupled thereto; and  
            enabling a conference between the coupled DTV receivers during program delivery.

15        2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

sending a billing message to one or more of the coupled DTV receivers according to program viewing or conferencing activity.

20        3. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

providing to one or more coupled DTV receiver a personalized commercial message.

25        4. The method of Claim 1 wherein:

each coupled DTV receiver comprises a video camera, such that the conference comprises a multi-way video conference between coupled DTV receivers.

5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

adding or removing a DTV receiver coupled to the program source during program delivery.

6. A digital television system comprising:  
a program source; and  
a plurality of digital television (DTV) receivers coupled to the program source;  
wherein a program is deliverable from the program source to the DTV receivers,  
5 and a conference is enabled between the coupled DTV receivers

7. The system of Claim 6 wherein:  
each DTV receiver comprises a video camera, such that the conference comprises  
a video conference between coupled DTV receivers.

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8. Digital television apparatus comprising:  
a display, a camera, and an interface;  
wherein the interface couples to a program source for presentation of a program  
by the display, the interface receiving a conference signal from a conference participant for  
15 presentation of a video conference by the display, and the camera generating a video signal  
for transmission to the conference participant.

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